

STEVENS ALIBI FALLING TO PIECES; HIS COMPANION CHANGES TESTIMONY

Witness Charges Detective Led Him Into Error

The alibi of Henry Stevens in the Hall-Mills case has been cracked.

That was the statement made today by Assistant Attorney General Alexander Simpson, in charge of the investigation, when he was asked about possible new arrests.

"We are going to concentrate on breaking Stevens's alibi first," he said. "I am satisfied that the alibi is cracked."



Alex. Simpson, September 14, 1922, were unable to corroborate his story.

Stevens is a brother of Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, who is at liberty in \$15,000 bail charged with murdering her husband, the Rev. Edward W. Hall, and his choir singer, Mrs. Eleanor R. Mills. Mrs. Hall's other brother, Willie Stevens, and her cousin, Henry de la B. Carpender, are being held without bail at Somerville, N. J., on similar charges.

Wife Promises Aid

In his alibi, Stevens accounted for his movements on the night of the murders up to 10:30 p. m. by saying he was fishing with four friends at Lavalette, N. J. His wife promised to produce three women who are expected to swear that Stevens was at his home at 11 p. m.

Should this be true, it would have been impossible for Stevens to be in New Brunswick at the scene of the slaying on that night. But three of the men who were fishing with him are not certain that the night was Sept. 14. When Stevens was with them, Arthur Applegate, one of the party, caught a six-pound bluefish and Applegate believes it is possible that the record catch was made on Sept. 15.

Coached by Detectives

A round-up of witnesses was staged at Toms River, N. J., last night. When Applegate was questioned he revealed that he had been approached by private detectives four years ago during the first murder inquiry. He said they fixed the day, September 14, in his mind and that was what made him say at first that this was the time of his big catch. Later he withdrew this statement.

William Mellinger of Philadelphia and George W. Johnson of Lavalette, other members of the party, were also unable to bear out Stevens's alibi when they were questioned. The only one to corroborate his story was Mayor Enoch T. Camp of Lavalette, who said he recollects clearly that Applegate caught his big fish on September 14.

Stevens Agitated, Woman Says

Before the men were examined, Mrs. Anna Hoag, another witness, made an affidavit stating that Stevens had visited the scene of the murders a few days after the crime was committed. She swore he called at her home, which is near DeRussey's Lane, and that he seemed agitated at that time.

Stevens last night denied Mrs. Hoag's statements. He did not seem perturbed by them.

Hall Probe Fails to Worry Stevens



MR. AND MRS. HENRY STEVENS are shown on the porch of their home at Lavalette, N. J., just after they had been questioned in the Hall-Mills case. Although Senator Simpson says Stevens's alibi has been cracked, he does not appear to be worrying about it.

Aged Slayer of Sweetie Wills Money to Bury Her

LEXINGTON, KY., Sept. 4 (By U. P.)—Recovering from her harrowing experience of being awakened by a revolver shot to find her girl friend dead in bed beside her, and of having to witness the protracted suicide of the murderer, a wealthy Kentucky hotel man, Alma Gregory of 2027 East 9th St., Brooklyn, has given Lexington police details which have enabled them to piece together the unusual tragedy.

Kelly C. Kirtley, 70, shot and killed Miss Gregory's companion, Mildred McDaniel, also of the Brooklyn address, while the two girls lay asleep in the Lafayette Hotel early yesterday. Turning the revolver upon himself, Kirtley fired a bullet into his head, and later another through his heart.

He thrashed about on the floor in his death agony, while Miss Gregory screamed for help.

To Pay Girls' Funeral

The aged hotel man was found to have left an unusual will, in which he directed that his victim's funeral expenses be paid from his estate, "that is, if she is buried in my lot."

Another codicil stipulated:

"In event the girl is not buried in my lot I don't want to pay her expenses at all."

The story of the elderly and wealthy Kentuckian's infatuation for Miss McDaniel, who was a strikingly pretty telephone operator, was told by Miss Gregory:

"We joined Mr. Kirtley in Charleston, W. Va., last Tuesday, and motored to Lexington in an

automobile he had bought for Mildred.

"Mr. Kirtley had been keeping Mildred for some time. They had fight Thursday night, and Mildred came and slept with me."

"Mildred and I had been boarding with a family in Brooklyn, where they thought Mr. Kirtley was Mildred's rich uncle, because he bought her fur coats and diamonds."

"She asked me to make the trip to Charleston with her because she said she wanted to keep from being with the 'old fool' as much as possible."

"Mildred always said she only tolerated Mr. Kirtley for his money."

Argument Over Ring

The argument between Kirtley and Miss McDaniel arose, she said, over the size of a diamond ring which the elderly man had given the girl.

Before killing Miss McDaniel and himself, Kirtley had packed his belongings carefully and left his will, with the codicils, where it could be found easily. He dated the document "1896," but had written it during the night, Miss

Final Ceremonies Held at Plattsburg

PLATTSBURG, N. Y., Sept. 4.—Final ceremonies for the August Plattsburg citizens' military training camp have been held. Col. John H. Hughes, camp commandant and commander of the Twenty-sixth Infantry, reviewed the candidates.

Many spectators witnessed the parade of the 1,700 youths, who hail from every section of New York, New Jersey and Delaware.

\$1,500-a-Year Man to Wed Rich Washington Heiress

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4 (By U. P.)—For the second time in six months a \$3,000-a-year man is carrying off one of the capital's richest society girls. Honors are resting about even between the United States consular service and the navy for first prize in the Washington matrimonial sweepstakes.

David K. E. Bruce, of the consular service, made a record when he married Alisa Mellon, daughter of the secretary of the treasury. Ensign Elliott Strauss, of the United States Navy, has captured the next richest Washington society girl—Lydia Archbold, a Standard Oil heiress.

Strauss was graduated from the United States Naval Academy in June. His basic pay is \$1,500 per year, plus \$219 subsistence. On getting married he will automatically be allowed \$480 for rent.

Miss Archbold isn't as rich as the Mellon heiress, but she was by far

Boy Tries to Flee Reformatory Dying From 4-Story Fall

Max Hahn, 14, is dying in Fordham Hospital from a fractured skull sustained when he fell while trying to escape from the Catholic Protectory, on East Tremont Avenue, The Bronx, where he was an inmate.

Early today the boy ripped his bed sheets, tied them into a rope, and securing one end to a bedpost, started to slide down from the fourth story. The weight of his body was too much for the rope, which snapped, and Max plunged to the ground.

A few minutes later William Quirk, watchman at the Protectory, discovered the boy unconscious on the lawn. A doctor was summoned and the youngster rushed to the hospital.

According to police, Max escaped from the reformatory two weeks ago. He roamed about the city until Tuesday, when he was picked up and returned.

Gov. Smith Better, Is Ordered to Rest For Several Days

ALBANY, Sept. 4 (By U. P.)—Steady progress in the healing of the incision in his back caused by removal of a mole was reported today by Gov. Smith's physician.

An examination late yesterday showed the wound in a healthy condition and the general state of the governor's health good, the doctor added.

"All he needs is a quiet rest of three or four days, and he will be all right again," the doctor said.

The Governor said he would follow the advice of his physician. His secretary, George B. Graves, spends a few hours each day with the Governor, going over important correspondence. No real work is being attempted.

THE WEATHER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1926



U. S. WEATHER FORECAST
LOCAL—Increasing cloudiness today, followed by showers tonight or tomorrow; not much change in temperature; north-east winds.